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WORLD RECORD-BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 24

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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Spawn and Lyra receive a cryptic message claiming to have a way to stop Bludd.

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INTERESTING...

AND SO PREDICTABLE.
"THERE'S A *NEW* ANGEL FACTION THAT'S TURNING INTO A REAL PROBLEM, SIR.
"LAST WEEK ALONE, WE SUSTAINED *MULTIPLE* ATTACKS AND WE EXPECT MORE ARE ON THE WAY."

IS IT THE SAME GROUP?
PRETTY SURE. EACH ATTACK, BEFORE THEY KILL THEM, THEY'VE MADE A POINT OF ***RIPPING*** OUT THEIR VICTIMS' FANGS.
NO ***'DEAD ZONES'*** HAVE BEEN BREACHED, SO WHOEVER'S ARMING THEM IS HERE ON EARTH. WE HAVE A FEW LEADS BUT RIGHT NOW JASON WYNN SEEMS LIKLIEST.
I DOUBT HE'D BE THAT RECKLESS.
EITHER WAY, WE NEED TO WIPE THIS OUT.
AGREED. WE'VE GOT THE ANGELS AND DEMONS ON THE RUN NOW, WE DON'T NEED THEM TO HAVE ANY KIND OF FIGUREHEAD TO RALLY AROUND.

PHILIP KRAHN: 'THE CURSE.'
DESPITE HAVING NEVER SET FOOT IN HEAVEN, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A DELUDED EXTREMIST TO GOD'S TEACHINGS.
KRISSH
EH?
SO, WHEN THE ANGELS LOST THEIR POWERS, HE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY...
...TO PROVE HIS WORTH TO GOD IN HIS HOUR OF NEED.
AND TO FINALLY SECURE HIS PLACE NEXT TO HIS LORD'S SIDE.
EXCELLENT/...

...YOU'RE ALL HERE.
SPAWN THOUGHT THEY'D BE SURPRISING THEIR ENEMY.
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
VERCHIEL, TO MY SIDE. NOW.
HOW'D YOU FIND US, HELLSPAWN?
THAT'S EASY.
I GAVE THAT INFO TO THEM.

YOU DID WHAT?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TIPPED US OFF?
OF COURSE, HOW DOES ONE PAY TRIBUTE TO GOD IF THEY'RE NOT WILLING TO RECRUIT?
ALL TRUE DISCIPLES HAVE THEIR FLOCK OF SHEEP TO HELP THEM.
HELP WITH WHAT?
THE 'DEAD ZONES!'
THEY'RE BROKEN! STOLEN ALL YOUR POWERS. BUT I KNOW HOW TO FIX THEM.

YOU'RE A NOBODY! AND YOU'VE NEVER DEALT WITH REALITY. SO, WHY'RE WE HERE?
I JUST TOLD YOU. DO YOU REALLY THINK GOD WOULD LET NYX CONTROL THOSE PORTALS? HE WOULDN'T. HE'D PLAN FOR HELL'S INTERFERENCE.
IT'S WHY HE LET THE VAMPIRES KEEP THEIR POWERS, TO HELP BALANCE THINGS.
BUT BLUDD HAS OVERSTEPPED HIS BOUNDRIES. HE'S PLACED SOMETHING AT EACH DEAD ZONE TO KEEP THEM FROM OPENING.
BUT IF YOU HELP ME, I BELIEVE WE CAN UNSEAL ONE OF THEM, TRIGGERING A DOMINO EFFECT THAT WILL RETURN THEM TO NORMAL.
BUT I NEED YOU TO HELP LAUNCH OUR ATTACK.

TOGETHER WE CAN GIVE GLORY TO THE ALMIGHTY!
BY GIVING HEAVEN AND HELL THEIR POWERS BACK?
YOU'RE INSANE!
AND YOU'RE TOO WEAK!
ARE YOU GOING TO JUST SURRENDER THE WORLD TO BLUDD? THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADING IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE

HIS ARMIES OUTNUMBER US TEN TO ONE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S PLANNING?
TOTAL DOMINATION! BY WIPING US ALL OUT!
AND ONCE WE'RE GONE, THERE'LL BE NO ONE LEFT TO STAND AGAINST HIM.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?
FWOOSH

ENOUGH!
I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO THIS BULLSHIT, SPAWN! WE EITHER DO SOMETHING OR WE F*CKIN' LEAVE!
YOU DARE?
MOVE AND YOU'RE DEAD.
SILENCE!

ALL OF YOU! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS.
GOD HAS GIVEN US THIS MISSION; WE ARE BOUND TO FULFILL IT AND WHEN DONE, GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD FOR DEEMING US WORTHY THAT HE HANDPICKED US!
I'M OUT OF HERE.
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
WHEN THE SPIRIT SPEAKS TO YOU, YOU'LL BE BACK.

YOU BROUGHT THEM HERE AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO LET THEM GO? JUST LIKE THAT?
WE ALL HAVE FREE WILL, MY FRIEND. THE DECISIONS WE MAKE MUST BE OUR OWN.
BUT, DON'T WORRY HE'LL BE BACK.
oh yah, AND WHY'S THAT?
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP HIMSELF. TRUST ME ON THAT.

THE CURSE'S WORDS HAUNT SPAWN ON HIS JOURNEY HOME
HELPING HEAVEN AND HELL GOES AGAINST EVERY FIBER OF HIS BEING
BUT HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT CURSE MIGHT BE RIGHT. THAT A WORLD DOMINATED BY BLUDD'S VAMPIRE SECTS ISN'T THE ANSWER EITHER.
AND AT SOME POINT, SPAWN MAY JUST HAVE TO PICK HIS PROVERBIAL POISON.
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT?
A SCREAM.

JESUS, GOD SOMEBODY...
HELP!!
BEFORE TONIGHT, LOSING HIS POWERS HAD SEEMED A FAIR PRICE TO SPAWN TO KEEP HEAVEN AND HELL'S AGENTS AT BAY.
TO KEEP THEIR INFLUENCE OVER HUMANS TO A MINIMUM.
BUT IT ISN'T THAT CLEAN. THERE ARE GRAY AREAS. THINGS THAT EXIST SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN.

...AND THOSE CREATURES DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HUMANITY!
HE ALSO KNOWS HE'S AT RISK HIMSELF FROM THESE VERY SAME FORCES.
MERELY BEING MORTAL WITH A TON OF MILITARY SKILLS ISN'T GOING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE FOREVER.
AND IF HE'S GONE, WHO PROTECTS EARTH
THEY'LL BE LAMBS GOING TO THEIR SLAUGHTER

BUT SPAWN COULD ALSO BECOME A LAMB
WITHOUT THEIR POWERS, HEAVEN AND HELL ARE WEAK.
BUT SO IS HE.
AND HE MAY BE DELUDING HIMSELF THINKING HE CAN TAKE DOWN BLUDD WITHOUT ANY POWERS.
WHILE OTHERS STILL WITH UNNATURAL STRENGTHS LURK IN THE SHADOWS WAITING FOR THEIR CHANCE.
please...
don't hurt me.

IS THIS PLANET BETTER OFF WITH MOSTLY POWERLESS THREATS?
OR DO THEY NEED A SPAWN AT FULL FORCE PROTECTING THEM FROM OTHERS AT FULL FORCE?
FOR NOW, FRUSTRATINGLY, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION
AND THAT IS WHAT'S BUGGING HIM THE MOST
SO, NOW WHAT'S OUR PLAN?
DON'T WORRY, CHILD...

...EVERYTHING WILL MAKE SENSE SOON ENOUGH.
NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'VE COME A LONG WAY AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH MR. SIMMONS.
IN PRIVATE.
DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, LYRA, BUT I CAN HANDLE IT.
BEFORE SHE GOES, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF, I'M NYX, QUEEN OF HELL.

MY THRONE GIVEN TO ME BY SIMMONS HIMSELF.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
CAREFUL, AL. THOUGH THIS AVATAR OF MY OLD BODY IS ALMOST BURNT OUT, YOU DON'T WANT MY TRUE FORM COMING HERE TO EARTH.
I HAVE PLANS, AL, BUT THIS MISSION YOU'RE CONTEMPLATING WITH THE CURSE, YOU NEED TO ABANDON IT.
I'M NOT ON ANYONE'S MISSION.
NOT YET, BUT YOU'RE MORTAL NOW. YOU'RE PUTTING DECADES OF MY WORK AT RISK.

"DECADES?"
YES.
THOUGH ONLY A FEW MONTHS HAVE PASSED ON EARTH. IT'S BEEN MUCH LONGER IN HELL.
IT'S WHY I'VE ONLY GOT A FEW MORE SECONDS LEFT IN THIS ROTTING CORPSE, THE BODY THAT COGLIOSTRO STOLE FROM ME.
SO, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN MYSELF, BUT THERE'S A BIGGER CONFLICT AT PLAY...
...THE CURSE AND BLUDD WILL DERAIL EVERYTHING. STAY AWAY FROM THEM.

MY JOB-- MY ONLY JOB--IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET.
YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT ONCE, WHEN YOU WERE HUMAN YOURSELF.
I STILL DO, BUT SITTING ON HELL'S THRONE ALLOWS ME TO ALSO SEE A GRANDER DESTINY FOR ALL OF US.
STAY AWAY FROM THEM. YOU'VE BEEN WARNED.
HER BODY DISINTEGRATES.
OKAY, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

AN OMEN. TELLING ME THINGS CAN'T REMAIN THE SAME.
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING BACK TO THE CURSE ARE YOU?
WELL, COUNT ME OUT! AFTER EVERYTHING ANGELS AND DEMONS DID TO MY FAMILY, I'M NOT HELPING THOSE ASS-HOLES GET THEIR POWERS BACK.
I GET THAT, BUT THERE MAY BE ANOTHER CHOICE.
I'M SURE THERE IS, BUT I BET IT PUTS US BOTH AT RISK. I DON'T LIKE PLAYING THE SAME GAMES YOU DO.
ESPECIALLY, WHEN I KNOW I'M OUTNUMBERED.
SOMETIMES THERE AREN'T ANY GOOD OPTIONS. JUST A CHOICE BETWEEN BAD AND WORSE.
IT'S TIME YOU DECIDED WHICH FATE YOU HATE MORE.

"AS I'D PREDICTED, SPAWN RETURNED TO ME LATER THAT NIGHT AS WE BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR OUR ATTACK.
"OF COURSE, WE KNEW THE ODDS AGAINST US. MANY OTHERS HAD ALREADY TRIED AND FAILED TO LIBERATE THE DEAD ZONES FROM BLUDD.
"BUT WE KNEW GOD WAS ON OUR SIDE, AND WE'D ALL MADE OUR PEACE WITH DYING. STILL, EVEN WITH THAT...
"...NONE OF US WERE PREPARED FOR WHAT *TRANSPIRED* THAT NIGHT..."

"...AND ALL THE CHAOS OUR ACTIONS WOULD UNLEASH ONTO THE WORLD THAT NIGHT! WHEN THE LORD'S LIGHT SHINED UPON US ALL."

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SPAWN® 360

JANUARY 2025

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